



Design a Seed

How do seeds travel?

Seeds are dispersed by the wind, animals, or water. How will the design of your seed help with its journey?

What you'll need:

- Recycled materials (cardboard or paper, plastic, wire, rubber bands, fabric, string, etc.)
- Scissors
- Tape or hot glue
- Optional: fuzzy blanket, tub of water, fan



Here's what to do:

1. Think about how your seed will travel: will it hook onto animals' fur? Fly through the air? Float on the water? Be eaten by a hungry bird?
2. Design your seed out of the materials you found-- brainstorm, make a few sketches, and then build it!
3. Find how your seed travels with a few tests! How long will it stay on "animal fur" (a fuzzy blanket)? How far will it travel in a breeze (the fan)? How long will it float on the water (tub of water)?
4. Improve the design of your seed, and test again!

What's the Science?

You're a bioengineer! Bioengineers study the natural world in order to design solutions. Velcro was invented by closely observing the tiny hooks on burdock seeds and re-creating them in plastic to make the fastener we know and love today!

Explore further:

Go on a seed hunt to find some seeds outside! How does each design help with dispersal? Check out *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* by JoAnn Early Macken.